When these *Shang - Chou* bronze inscriptions were made they already had more ideographic than pictographic value, expressing names and ideas far removed from the original. Their origin is lost in antiquity but strong tradition preserved their shapes. The pictographic and the later *Shang*-time meanings are conjectural but both are suggested where possible, and the general sense may be discerned. Early sounds are not given as they may only be guessed at. The modern sounds of proper names are given for convenience only.

CHINESE PICTOGRAPHS

ORIENTAL CULTURE CHART #22A
COMPILED & PUBLISHED BY
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Railings of the sanctuary separating spirits from supplicants

Representations of the ancestral spirits - Eyes, Footprints, Figures.

Pre-*Shang* list of game taken in a hunt. Oldest known Chinese inscription.

Sanctuary in temple or family shrine

Offerings - Cowrie shells (money), single and in strings

Hand of the head of the family offering flesh, the odor ascending

Ancestral tablets, probably having phallic significance

Sacrificial animals - Deer, Pig, Dog, Birds, Fish, Tiger, Rhinoceros.

Sacrificial implements - Knife, Dagger-axe, Bow, Arrows in a stand

Other spirits - Mountains, Clouds, Dragons

Ritual vessels - Tripods, Bowls, Vases, Wine pots, (See Chart #14)

SUGGESTED INTERPRETATIONS OF THE INSCRIPTIONS

1. Ancestor's eyes viewing hide of sacrificial animal displayed in the sanctuary before the railings of which, the ancestral tablet is placed, and wine is poured on the ground. (*Ding*, may be the day-name of the supplicant or of the ancestor.
2. Spirit decending into sanctuary to receive offerings hand holding meat, the odor rising, and wine spilled. Here reads Father *I* (pron. *Ei*).
3. Spirit, railings, Father *Jen (Ren)*.
4. Supplicant kneeling (in spirit), before the ancestor, railings, Father *I*.
5. Railings, *Kuei (Guei)* the ancestor, offering by *Keng (Geng)*.
6. The great ancestor, his heel (indicating his presence), following (his guidance).
7. Footprints around sanctuary in which is offered by 2 hands sacred books (wood strips strung together).
8. Eyes of ancestor viewing offering. Probably a family or clan badge or symbol.
9. Thanks to the spirits for visiting the offerings as evidenced by footprints in scattered sand.
10. Descending spirit viewing offerings from Father *Kuei*.
11. Ancestor (great), *Hsin*, tablet.

12, 13. Loads of cowries presented by Father *Ting (Ding)*, and Father *I*.
14. Ancestor accepting cowries presented by Father *I*.
15, 16. Animal being sacrificed for Father *Kuei* and for Grandfather *Kuei*.
17. Animals sacrificed to *Kan (Gan)* by Father *Hsin*.
18. Animals and plants (name ?) offered by Father *Hsin*.
19. Animals sacrificed to the spirit of the King Grandfather + *Chia (Jia)*.
20, 21. Man holding dagger-axe representing sacrifices by Father *Kuei*.
23. Represents an enclosure, possibly a temple, in which obeying *Kuei*, *I* heaps up (offers), (for him) to accept, with banners, libations, footprints noticed. (Sense uncertain.) Was adopted as a clan symbol by a *Shang* family branch.
24. with bird, coffin or box, with generation, Father *Ting*. Probably a family symbol.
25. Footprints of *Siu* worshipped by Father *Ting* of *Shang*.
26. *Shang* vassal (a clan), offering by *Hsin*.
27. *Shang* *Chi* sacrifices by *Hsin*.
28. & Heaven. Probably a *Shang* family branch.
29. *Shang* vessels offered by *Hsin* (Or a name).
30. *Shang* ancestor, (please) call upon your faithful servants (to bo your bidding).
31. Same as 26 but Father *Ting*.
32. *Shang* *Mao*. A name symbol.
33. *Shang* with legs of ancestor, etc.
34. *Shang* *Hsia*. A family symbol.
35. *Shang* vassal offers vessel, Father *I*.
36. *Shang* family to preserve this vessel.
37. *Shang* dog and footprints. Family name.
38. *Shang* *Kao (Gao)*. Name.
39, 40. Other *Shang* family symbols.
41, 42. Elephant, pun on *Hsiang* auspicious (day for supplications to) Ancestor *Hsin*.
43. Man holding axe and shield, (request for aid in battle from) Grandfather *Ting*.
44. Bird.
45. *Chih (Jir)*. Names.
46. Father *I* honoring *Yü* (Fish). A name.
47, 48, 49. Rhinoceros & other symbols. Names.
50. Tiger, *Hu*. A name.
51. Ancestor, pig sacrifice, *Chüeh*, surname, *Hsin*.
52. Pig in shrine (now home), axe, Father *Keng*.
53. Hand holding a ladle (name ?), Father *Kuei*.
54. Minister (the ancestor), Father *Chi (Ji)*.
55. A sacrifice, by Father *Chi*.
56. Triplets being presented to the sight of the ancestor by Father *Kuei*.
57. *Wu* an edifice, and *Yang* a sheep. A name.
58. Before the gates of the temple, ancestral tablet and poured wine.
59. Hand holding a fountain pen; to write. (?)
60. *Shang* family sanctuary, cowries presented.
61. *Shang* with sacrificial animal.
62, 63. Please accept offering by Father *Chi*.
64. Poling a boat; to transport (name) Father *Ting*.
65. Sheep offered by Father *Keng*.
66. Ancestor *Ting's* basin.
67. To Uncle, by Father *Hsin*.
68, 69. Honoring deceased uncles. Possibly a name.
70. Chicken. A name.
71, 72. Birds and Grandfather *Chia*; Father *Wu*.
73. Father *Ting* and Fish *Yü*, a name.
74. Fish, Father *I*. 75. Father *Wu*, Elder Brother.
76. *Chi* (acknowledges his) success in a venture.
77. *Wo* *Wu*. A name.
78. Man with knife (sacrifice), Father *Hsin*.
79. Bow (*Kung* family), Father *Kuei*.
80, 81. Racks of arrows, cowries etc. (Names).
82. Coffin or box for ritual implements, arrows. "
83. Box, to obey or follow. A name.
84. *Chien* to string together, a name. Father *Hsin*.
85. Shrine before which a new child is presented to the Presence by Father with usual offerings.
86. Father *Chi* presents son, *Shang* *Tou*. Name.
87. Shrine, Father *Hsin*.
88, 89. Shrine with son being presented .
90. Heavenly spirit hovering over temple in which is placed ancestral portrait (?). Or a name.
91. Mother holding child, presented by Father *Ting*.
92. Father in the Presence with the usual ritual vessels presents this *Ting*. (See Chart #14)
93. to the Presence, and the usual offerings.
94. " banners, money, offered.
95. " Father *Hsin*.
96. *Hsi Chung* (presents to) precious Presence (with) his sincerety for 10,000 years for sons, grandsons precious use fotever.
97. *Hu* a caldron offered by Father *Hsin*.
98. *Ping* (name of ancestor honored by) Father *Chi*.
99. *Ping's* footprints. (An honor acknowledged.)
100. Grain (offered by) Father *Chi*.
101. *Hu*, a tankard, Father *I*.
102. *Tou*, a platter, Father *Ting*.
103, 104. Dagger-axes (symbolizing sacrifices).
105. Axe presented to Ancestor by Father *Kuei*.
106. Axe, Father *I*. (These axes may be names.)
107. Knife & sacrificial wine, Father *Kuei*.
108. Axe (name *Wu*) King, *Tsun* - a wine vessel offered by 2 hands; symbol for all ritual vessels.
109. Bow, arrow, *Ts'ao* plant (joy), bowstring.
110. *Niu*, a cow. A sacrifice or a name.
111. Man with a banner, Ancestor *I*.
112. Same, Father *Hsin*.
113. Presentation of banners by Father *I*.
114. Banners, sister-in-law *Shang* (boiler).
115. *Lang*, dragon, ancestor, precious vessel.
116. Honoring ancestor, *Ting* full of grain.
117. Pig, wife, dish, *Ting*, vessels.
118. Ancestor with large ears, Father *Chi*, ancestor's Presence, *Ts'un* vessel.
119. Man with a bow. Possibly a name.
120. Son and grandson (crawling), Father *Wu*.
121. Probably a grandson. Now indicates question.
122. Eastern Ancestor. Probably a name.
123. *Kuei*, Tortoise. Symbol of long life.
124. Tortoise, Father *Ting*.
125. *Wan*, scorpion, 10,000, many. A name.
126. Dagger-axe, *Ts'un*; sacrificial offerings.
127. Tiger with cowrie on tail, symbol of power and wealth, Ancestor, presence, Father *Wu*, etc.
128. *K'ang* *Hou* *Feng* (name), presence, precious offerings. (This is a standard formula.)
129. *Ya'i* presence, Father *Keng's* offerings.
130. Uncle *Ya'i's* presence, precious offerings.
131. Same but Uncle *Chü*.
132. In the presence of (name), precious offerings.
133. Heaped in presence of , " "
134. Heap made man *Chu* (name) " "
135. Following (custom) presenting child to presence ancestor Father *Ting* with usual offerings.
136. Woman *K'ang* *Ting* presents dish, etc.
137. Dish pr. to tablet of *Chi* by Father *Hsin*.
138. Banners, & offerings of vessels, etc.
139. Name, Presence, usual precious offerings.
140. *Wang* *Hsi* minister descendant of *Hsi* + *Chia* (living in) rear room (modesty).
141. In sanctuary ancestor , presence, offering with divination proper document.
142. *Keng*, Father *Hsin*. 143. Father *Keng*.
144. (To) all (ancestors), (by) Father *Ting*.
145. All, *Fu* bat, longevity symbol (name).
146. All (ancestors), Father *Ping* (*Bing*).
147. Tortoise in enclosure. (Family symbol ?)
148-9. *Hsiang* elephant, pun on *Hsiang* happy.
150. (To) mountain spirits, offerings by *Jen*.
151. *Kuei* (Ancestor spirit in the) mountains.
152. *Yün* (spirit of rain clouds), Father *Kuei*.
153. *Lung* (rain dragon spirit rising from waves).
154, 155, 156. Dragons. (Supplications to, or names.)
157. Rain drops. (Offering to bring rain.)
158. Uncle *Pa* (*Ba*) *Tun* (*Dun*) shield.
159. *Ts'un*, a vessel (presented by) Father *Kuei*.
160. *Yin* vessel, *I*. 161. *Ts'un*, Father *Ting*.
162, 163, 164, *Ting* vessels. (Possibly names.)
165. Dish, Father *Kuei*. 166. Dish, Father *I*.
167. *Chüeh*, a wine cup, (name), Father *Kuei*.
168. Ancestor bestowing rain, Father *Hsin*.
169, 170. *Erh* sun or day. (Perhaps a name.)
171. *Hsin*. 172. *Liang*. 173. *Tan*. (Names.)
174. *Hsi* genealogy. (On behalf of the family line.)
175. *Chi* *Chü*. 176. *Chi* *Chü*. (Names.)

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